

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for fine blanking of workpieces from a material (1), comprising:

a press plate (10) having a V-ring (11), which is under pressure from a V-ring cylinder (13) comprising and has a V-ring (11) a V-ring piston rod (15) connected to a V-ring piston (12) disposed opposite to and in support of the V-ring (11) of the press plate (10), and

a blanking punch (9) which is guided in the press plate (10) and to which a die plate (17) with counterholder (16) is assigned at a ram (7), wherein the ram (7) is supported against at least one compensation cylinder (22), which is hydraulically connected to the V-ring cylinder (13), and is in hydraulic equilibrium with the V-ring cylinder (13).

2. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that four compensation cylinders (22) are provided.

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a compensation piston (23) is arranged in the compensation cylinder (22) and is firmly connected to the ram (7) via a piston rod (24).

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that an effective cross-sectional area of the compensation piston (23) is equal to an effective cross-

sectional area of a the V-ring piston (12) of the V-ring cylinder.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the V-ring cylinder (13) is arranged on a crosshead (3) of a machine frame (2).

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the ram (7) is supported against at least one main cylinder (19.1, 19.2).

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that a piston (20.1, 20.2) of the main cylinder (19.1, 19.2) has an effective cross-sectional area which is greater than that of a compensation piston (23) of the compensation cylinder (22).

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the compensation cylinder (22) is hydraulically connected to the V-ring cylinder (13) through a hydraulic connection (25) which also has a connection ~~(36)~~ (26) to an oil tank via a logic valve (27).